

MAINTAIN POST AGAINST ENEMY

Germans Beaten Back When Attempting to Redeem Situation West of Brenta River—Invaders Wearing Italian Uniforms Captured During Invasion—Demoralized Army a "Miserable Lot."

Italian Army Headquarters, Friday, Feb. 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—The enemy made another powerful effort yesterday to redeem the situation west of the Brenta river where the Italians recently won a notable success, but was beaten back by the combined action of the infantry and artillery without reaching his objective of Monte Di Val Bella, where the Italians are maintaining their position.

The extent of the enemy losses in the fighting early this week is now known to be larger, even than the first accounts indicated, the fuller details making this a great event. An observer reports having seen and talked with a number of the captured officers and men. They were a miserable looking lot, he says, many of them wearing Italian uniforms taken during the invasion of the Friuli region.

Fighting Was Furious.

All the prisoners agreed as to the furious nature of the fighting and the exceptionally heavy losses caused by the concentration of the fire of the Italian, French and British batteries. The trenches were leveled and the links between the forward and rear lines swept away, thus stopping all communication and preventing the officers from securing co-ordination in the work of the artillery and the infantry. The few trenches remaining were littered with dead and the survivors were found for the most part on their knees, hysterically crying or praying.

The Twenty-first rifle division of the Austrian forces had 5,000 men put out of action, or about 70 per cent. of its fighting force. Brigades of the Eighteenth and Sixth Austrian divisions had casualties amounting to approximately 50 per cent. But the most terrible loss was inflicted on the One Hundred and Sixtieth landstrum, which of several thousand men in line, had only a few hundred left.

The magnitude of such losses was due to the triple artillery fire of the allies, maintained for forty consecutive hours, often cross-firing from two or three directions simultaneously. An unusual feature of this artillery action was the complete unity brought about among the Italian, French and British batteries. This was so marked that one of the chiefs of the artillery staff exclaimed: "At last we have realized unity of command right in the face of the enemy fire."

Triple Fire Destructive.

As an illustration of the destructive nature of the triple artillery fire it may be recorded that an enemy battery with four monster 240-millimeter guns was destroyed completely. The enemy was using an old church as one of his principal ammunition depots, and when the church was blown up he was cut off from supplies of ammunition in that sector. In consequence all the enemy batteries around Fossa and several other points remained silent.

THE SUNDHOG SEES HIS SHADOW



WATERS RECEDING

AMERICANS MAKE IT HOT FOR HUN SNIPERS
Observers Report Germans Becoming 'Nervous and Jumpy.'

With the American Army in France, Feb. 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—American gunners and riflemen have made it hot for the enemy snipers during the last twenty-four hours. One German sniping post, discovered by a patrol, was completely obliterated by our artillery fire. An enemy machine gun secretly placed during a fog, where it could enfilade our lines, had to be withdrawn. American machine guns concentrated their fire on a nest of busy snipers and compelled them all to seek safer cover.

American artillery shelled the enemy first lines accurately with high explosives and responded almost instantaneously to a call for a barrage from the front line when the men there saw movements on the other side of the wire. When the artillery fired, no Germans were visible. There was no aerial activity because of the fog.

Three casualties were reported. Two were caused by accidental bullet wounds and one by shell fire.

"Flying Pigs" Fall.

Observers report that the Germans are becoming nervous and jumpy. This is indicated especially by the unusual number of flares sent up during last night. After one series the Americans got their first experience with the enemy "flying pigs," a number of which were aimed at an observation post without result.

During the early hours today the enemy attempted to set up a machine gun in a position from which it could command a certain American trench. Effective use of rifles and grenades forced the Germans to withdraw.

Two American patrols had hard luck early today. One was discovered by Germans in hiding and subjected to machine gun fire, but none of the Americans was hit. One group of American snipers discovered enemy snipers and fired so well that the enemy retired hastily. It is believed some German casualties were caused.

RIVER BEGINS TO FALL SLOWLY
Crest of Flood Arrived on Schedule Time and Inundated Much Land.

HIGHEST STAGE 42.45 FEET
Relief Committees Do Splendid Work and Thus Prevent Much Suffering.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon the gauge read 41.9, showing a fall of six tenths of a foot since 7 a.m.

The crest of the flood in the Tennessee river arrived on schedule time, as predicted by H. C. Gross, weather forecaster, sixty hours previously.

The forecaster said that the crest would reach a height of 42.5 feet and he only missed it by one-tenth of one-tenth of a foot, as the crest was actually 42.45 feet at 7 a.m. Saturday morning.

This was some close guessing and shows to what a fine point the weather service can calculate on approaching climatic events.

The river continued to rise all day Friday and last night, each hour showing a slight advance in the waters. However, the rise last night was very slow. At 8:15 o'clock, the hour of the last reading, showed the gauge to register 42.4 and the next reading at 7 a.m. Saturday showed 42.45, indicating only a rise of one-tenth of one-tenth of a foot in that period.

The river was stationary and continued so until 11 o'clock, when it began to fall, and continued at the rate of about one-tenth of a foot an hour. This rate will gradually increase. At 1 o'clock this afternoon the gauge showed 42.1.

Snow and Rains.

Reports from Knoxville, Chattanooga and Rockwood show a continued fall. There was snow reported at Knoxville and slight rains at Chattanooga and several other up-river points.

However, these will not affect the river at Chattanooga.

Even should the upper points have heavy rains, the additional volume of water would not reach Chattanooga until the present flood tide had receded. There have been no heavy rains here and the channel is capable of taking all of the present volume of water. It is believed that the present volume from above could reach Chattanooga.

The present rise in Chattanooga is the result of the flood from the Tennessee river.

The water level at Chattanooga is the highest in the history of the river. The people most affected in the valley are those living on elevations of 100 to 200 feet above the river. These people have been advised to move and those whose places were forty-two feet were told to leave their homes. The water level is now 42.45 feet, and it is expected that it will continue to rise for some time.

The local committee appointed to look after the flood sufferers are now under the operation of all the people and hence got the situation well in hand and assisted those who were forced to move because of the high waters in plenty of time to prevent any serious loss to household goods.

It was necessary to provide temporary quarters for a large number of poor families and to provide provisions for some few. But upon the whole the work of the relief committees has been comparatively light.

It is expected that the waters will begin to recede late this afternoon and by Sunday noon most of the low places now under water will be free. Of course some of the houses inundated must remain vacant for a sufficient time to let them dry out before they can be occupied, but in the meantime the flood sufferers will be cared for with as little inconvenience as possible.

SEVEN FACTORIES IN GRIP OF LAW

Berlin Strikers Ordered Back to Work Under Threat Severe Penalty—Railway to Harbor Cut Off—Rioting in Mad Progress.

London, Feb. 2.—Seven Berlin factories have been placed under martial law and the strikers ordered to resume their work by 7 o'clock Monday morning at the latest, according to a Central News dispatch from Amsterdam today. Their failure to return, it is announced, will be punished according to military discipline.

Four thousand men who have been employed at the harbor works are on strike, the dispatch reports. Strikers cut the railway leading to one of the factories.

At Siemensstadt, a suburb of Spandau, train cars were overturned. A mob stormed a bakery and compelled the proprietor to distribute bread without bread cards.

Serious rioting on Thursday in Spandau, where important German war industries are located, is reported in German newspapers, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam says. Soldiers were attacked by a mob. A policeman was dragged from his horse and beaten.

Shown to Be Extensive.

Amsterdam, Feb. 2.—Accounts of the disturbances which appeared in Berlin newspapers Friday morning show that they assumed extensive character. All parts of greater Berlin were involved, with the solitary exception of Unter Den Linden and Schloss-Platz. The latter place, on which the palace is situated, was entirely deserted, as the papers remark significantly.

The worst disturbances were in the Moabit district, where crowds of strikers attempted to overturn street cars. The police intervened and were resisted by the strikers, collisions occurring. There were stormy scenes also in North Berlin, and in East Berlin youths and girls crowded the streets, climbed on street cars and wrestled the controllers from the motormen or overturned the cars. In the suburb of Treptow crowds derided a number of

MEXICAN SHOOT TWO CHILDREN

Police Chase Wild Man, Who Kills Four and Blow Him to Pieces With Dynamite

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 2.—After shooting and killing four persons and dangerously wounding another early today, Felipe Alvarez, a Mexican, was himself blown to pieces by dynamite which was thrown into the small house in the Mexican quarter where he had taken refuge from more than 100 city and military police who attempted to capture him.

Alvarez went to the home of Mrs. Trinidad Lucero and began shooting at her and her two children. The children were instantly killed and their mother dangerously wounded.

The police chased the infuriated Mexican for ten blocks, shooting as they ran.

He entered the house in the Mexican quarter, barricaded himself and opened fire on the police, killing one policeman and Juan Garcia, deputy tax collector. The shots attracted the attention of the military police and within a few minutes the house was surrounded by 100 armed soldiers and officers. Volley after volley was poured into the house without dislodging the man.

Four charges of dynamite were exploded before the building was wrecked and Alvarez's body hurled high into the air. Examination of the body disclosed that he had received six bullet wounds from the policemen and soldiers.

CAMP WHEELER AEROS MISSING

Police Chase Wild Man, Who Kills Four and Blow Him to Pieces With Dynamite

Amsterdam, Feb. 2.—The main center of the German strike movement, according to a semi-official statement from Berlin, are the districts of Berlin and Altena. The latter includes the armament centers of Hamburg and Kiel. The other armament manufacturing districts, the Rhineland, Silesia, the Saar district, and the kingdom of Saxony, have been comparatively quiet up to this time.

The frontier correspondent of the Handelsblad speaks of secret meetings held in western Germany to decide whether to join the strike. Should the decision be in the affirmative the workmen are declared to be determined to make the cessation of work general.

The Koelnische Zeitung declares that a majority of the workmen in Cologne are opposed to the strike.

Crying "Peace and Bread."

The newspaper "Die Welt" from a reliable source that the rioting in Berlin on Thursday was precipitated by a shot fired when the police were trying to disperse a crowd which was proceeding towards Charlottenburg crying, "Peace and bread." A panic ensued when the shot was fired and the police charged the crowd with drawn sabres. The strikers sought shelter behind overturned tram cars and fired or hurled projectiles at the police, who were unable to keep the excited people under control. About thirty strikers were wounded and taken to a hospital. Many onlookers who were wounded were treated in drug stores.

Crowds at various places attempted further riots. Detachments of cavalry and machine gun corps have been collected in the neighborhood of Berlin.

BLISS WOULD REMAIN BROAD

If Pershing Can Spare Maj. Gen. March Latter Will Become Head of Army.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Major-General Bliss is slated to become acting chief of staff of the army if Gen. Pershing can spare him from his present duties as chief of artillery of the expeditionary forces. No reply has been received as yet from Gen. Pershing.

The selection of Gen. Bliss means that Major-General Bliss, chief of staff, is to remain permanently in Europe as the American military representative at the supreme war council now sitting in France. No official statement was available as to the action contemplated, but it is expected that Gen. Bliss will undertake his new duties in the near future.

The permanent assignment of Gen. Bliss to the war council may result in a request to congress for authority to appoint an additional general. As Gen. March will be in fact head of the army it is regarded as probable that he will be given both the rank and title of chief of staff later. Gen. Bliss being continued in similar rank but relieved as chief of staff to permit him to devote himself exclusively to his work abroad.

What Army Officers Think.

Army officers see in the appointment of Gen. March promise of a more thorough untangling of all war department agencies than has been possible heretofore owing to the peculiar situation in which the general staff has been placed since the entrance of the United States into the war. When the war began, Maj.-Gen. Scott, chief of staff, was promptly detached for duty in Russia with the Root commission. Gen. Bliss as his assistant took over the work, but did not succeed to the title of chief of staff until Gen. Scott's retirement.

Almost immediately after his elevation to that post, he was in turn detached to go to Europe and has not since functioned as chief of staff.

It is an open secret at the war department that there has been a lack of carefully organized staff work due to this situation.

WANT HEATLESS PLAN ENFORCED

New York, Feb. 2.—State and municipal fuel authorities indicated today they would move to enforce the heatless plan providing for heatless Mondays in an effort to conserve coal consumption.

RICHMOND DESTROYED? WOMAN HEARS WILD TALE

Richmond, Va., Feb. 2.—According to a message received here from Mrs. Andreane Rastello, of Geneva, Switzerland, the newspapers of that city recently published articles saying "Richmond, Va., is about to be destroyed."

The message, which was received in an effort to ascertain whether they were still alive and the city intact. According to Mrs. Rastello, the capital of Virginia was among American cities mentioned as being doomed for destruction by the reports as to when, how or by whom Richmond would be destroyed.

The treatment of the Serbians is even worse than that of the Austrians, indicating that Austria intends to destroy the Serbians as a race. As a result of these conditions there are up to now not less than 30,000 to 40,000 dead from starvation.

PASSAGE ASSURED FOR PROHIBITION BILL

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 2.—The state senate today, by a vote of 19 to 7, passed to its third reading, the recommitment of the federal prohibition amendment, virtually assuring its final passage in that body. The house of delegates has not yet acted on the amendment.

LIVERPOOL TROOPS IN SUCCESSFUL RAID

London, Feb. 2.—During the night a party of Liverpool troops successfully raided the enemy's trenches southeast of Arrmentieres and brought back prisoners, the war office reports. "A raid attempted by the enemy north of Passchendaele was repulsed."

FIREMAN LOSES LIFE IN BIRMINGHAM MILL BLAZE

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 2.—The body of Fireman E. E. Young was found beneath a fallen brick wall of the ruins of the peanut oil mill of the Union Cotton Oil company, destroyed by fire last night. Fireman Young was not missed until his company returned to quarters. Investigations and search resulted in the discovery of the body. The wall fell about 4 o'clock this morning while firemen were still fighting the flames.

PROPOSE INCREASES IN OCEAN AND RAIL RATES

Washington, Feb. 2.—Increases, ranging from 5 to 15 per cent. in ocean and rail class and commodity rates from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore to Chicago and Mississippi river crossings, were proposed in application filed today with the interstate commerce commission.

INDORSE PRINCIPLE OF CENTRALIZED CONTROL

Washington, Feb. 2.—The principle of centralized control was indorsed today before the senate military committee by Howard E. Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board. Central authority to co-ordinate the government's war activities, he declared, according to senators who questioned him behind closed doors, was imperative. Mr. Coffin made a detailed statement of conditions to the committee, which was regarded by senators favoring definite legislative action as further support of the bills for a war cabinet and munitions director.

REMOVE ALL BARS TO SEA FOOD INDUSTRY

New Orleans, Feb. 2.—Resolutions recommending the removal during the war of various restrictions placed by state laws on the taking of fish, oysters and other sea food and suggesting the removal entirely of closed seasons on certain kinds of fish and the opening of certain waters, now closed to fishermen were adopted by the conference of food administrators, conservation commissioners and fish, oyster and shrimp dealers and fishermen from Texas, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana at its closing session here today.

CAPTURED KIEV WITH NO EFFORT

Petrograd, Feb. 2.—The capture of Kiev by the bolsheviks virtually without resistance insures the authority of bolshevik rule in the Ukraine. Petrograd and Moscow detachments of the red guard formed the bolshevik attacking party and the defenders capitulated after they had fired four shots from their cannon.

Jassy, Rumania, Sunday, Jan. 27.—Odessa was captured by the bolsheviks Saturday night. The bolshevik troops are now in full control of that city.

Kishinev, capital of Bessarabia, and the scene of Jewish massacres fifteen years ago, was taken today by Rumanian forces, who were sent there in response to an appeal for aid from the local Bessarabian government.

Odessa is the most important city and seaport of southern Russia and the fourth city of the empire in population.

DANIELS WILL NOT ASK FOR NAVAL STATISTICS

Washington, Feb. 2.—Secretary Daniels today authorized announcement that he would not ask

U-BOATS GLORIFIED BY BERLIN PAPERS

Amsterdam, Feb. 2.—The semi-official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung and other Berlin newspapers publish articles on the anniversary of unrestricted submarine warfare.

The U-boat as a "weapon which has achieved strategic and moral results, particularly against Great Britain in its world position."

BRITISH FIRE AIMED AT SEARCHLIGHTS

Trains and Moving Lights on Roads Among Special Objectives.

London, Feb. 1.—The war office, in an elaboration of the official report of the bombing raid made by British aviators into Germany Jan. 26, disclosed the fact that machine gun fire was directed on searchlights, trains, moving lights in the roads and on buildings in each of the districts visited and also into villages in the Moselle valley. Altogether 5,257 pounds of bombs were dropped at an average height of 1,500 feet. One pilot made four attempts before reaching his objective, owing to the heavy mist which made flying difficult.

An official dispatch from London, Jan. 26, said that British airplanes raided several objectives in Germany, making direct hits on factories and docks and also in the town of Mannheim. In addition the railway stations at Saarbrücken and Oberbillerig were attacked with excellent results.

NO SHADOW, SAYS BILLY P.

A frolicsome incident in the groundhog, or the "yaffle," zoologically termed, with a sportive sense of humor and a habit most confirmed; but today he'll see no shadow, and, if he crawls back in his den, I'm going to get me a rattling gun and blast him out again.

So few wives can be made to appreciate why the kitchen soap can't be used for shaving.

The weather? Probably snow or rain and moderate temperature tonight and Sunday.

PRESIDENT WILSON URGES OBJECTIONS TO BILLS

Washington, Feb. 2.—In voicing his opposition to the senate military committee's bills for a war cabinet and a munitions director, President Wilson urged upon another group of democratic senators called to the White House yesterday the necessity of avoiding, as far as possible, agitation in congress that might encourage the enemy and give the impression of discord.

The president, according to those attending the conference, in forceful fashion reiterated his objections to the proposed legislation and declared he would not consider a compromise on them. He said both bills were obnoxious to him, both because they were unnecessary and because they would embarrass and deprive him of authority in the prosecution of the war.

WORK RESUMED; TRAFFIC MAINTAINED, IS REPORT

Amsterdam, Feb. 2.—"Isolated and insignificant excesses" in Berlin yesterday are reported in a semi-official statement received here today from the German capital. Work is said to have been resumed at Hamburg and Danzig. For the most part traffic was maintained in orderly manner, the statement adds. Publication of all newspapers has been resumed.